

REPORT OF ALTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Alton Historical Society strives to serve the public in two capacities: by preserving local history through the collection of artifacts and information, and by encouraging people to think about, and explore, Alton's rich history.

In our capacity as caretakers of artifacts and information, we maintain the **Alton Historical Society Museum**. This museum is located in the lower level of the Gilman Library, and it offers a glimpse into Alton's past with a varied collection of artifacts ranging from a bird collection to the Old Town Hall clock face. We also maintain many reference materials pertaining to Alton & the surrounding region.

We are trying to raise awareness of this "hidden jewel". Due to volunteer availability museum hours have been limited to Wednesday afternoons during July & August. However, during 2005 we held an evening Open House in July and a very successful Open House as part of Alton's Light Up Night in December. We plan to hold additional Open Houses during the coming year – and arrangements can be made to open the museum for school groups or others upon request.

In an effort to get people thinking about Alton's history, and history in general, **we offer a series of programs** at our monthly meetings. In 2005 the programs were:

- Alton's Railroad History & B&M Railroad Yard Park
- Alton's Remembrances
- Women in War (Joint program with friends of the Gilman Library)
- We Loved Toys of Yesteryear
- Alton Historical Society Museum Open House
- Steam Boating on Lake Winnepesaukee
- Appraisal Day

In 2005 the Historical Society also began setting the groundwork for our largest project to date. We are planning to renovate an old railroad freight building, which was generously donated to us by Mr. Laurence Lantz. The plans are only in the conceptual stage now, but we are hoping to move forward with the project in the coming year.

2005 has been a very successful year for the Society, and we would like to thank all of the members who have assisted with programs or who have volunteered at the Museum. We would also like to thank Mr. Lantz for his generous gift and the Gilman Library for their continued support.

We hope to expand our efforts again in 2006, but we need additional active members to do so. Please consider joining us in our efforts to preserve and promote Alton's History.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip Laurion
Philip Laurion, President